

LLOYD GEORGE UPHELD BY VOTE OF 293 TO 106; PREMIER DEFENDS ARMY

House Vindicates Leader; Following Charges by Gen. Maurice. CRITICS ASKED TO HALT Attacks From Rear Are Injuring Men in Field, Minister Says.

MAN POWER INCREASED Wisdom Dictated No Extension of Line in France During Offensive.

LONDON, May 9.—The House of Commons voted 293 to 106 to-day to sustain the Lloyd George Ministry. Although ex-Premier Asquith, who moved for an investigation of the veracity of the Premier's statements regarding the conduct of the war, said during the spirited debate that he had no intention of making a political issue of the matter, Lloyd George gave notice that he had interpreted it as such. He said that if the motion were carried Mr. Asquith would again be responsible for the conduct of the war.

As the debate was closing the Premier directed a caustic shaft at the members of the House who have recently criticised the conduct of the war. "I beg that they may come to an end," he said. "National unity and the army are threatened. The Germans are preparing the biggest blow of the war, and I beg and implore that there shall be an end to this sniping."

Mr. Asquith then said that many of his friends had thought he had been heartened in the matter, and that there were others than his friends who thought of him as being devoured by impotence to resume office. "An ample content to leave judgment of that kind to the House and to my fellow countrymen," he said. "The Premier was greeted by tremendous applause when he rose to speak in answer to Mr. Asquith's question as to the outcome of the war. He said that he was not a man to get on with the war and to clear away misconceptions and misunderstandings which might have no foundation, but created doubt in the public mind."

Declares Army Larger. With reference to the strength of the army, the Premier said: "There is absolutely no doubt that there was a very considerable addition to the man power of the army at the beginning of 1918 as compared with the man power at the beginning of 1917. There was a great increase in the man power of the army throughout the year 1918 as compared with 1917. But the increase in France was more than the average throughout the whole area."

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Allied Chiefs Praise U. S. Troop Movement

PARIS, May 9.—It has become known that at the conference last week at Abbeville, over which Premier Clemenceau presided, the progress of the American offensive was discussed and the leaders of the Allies expressed great satisfaction over the movements of troops from the United States, of whom it was said that more were arriving in France now than at any previous time.

The allied Supreme Staff expressed gratitude not only for the quick and effective aid of the Americans, but also for the manner in which it had been put at the disposal of the French command, "as if they were our own soldiers," one official said.

ARMY SPLIT ON VON HINDENBURG

Von Moltke Followers Assail His Strategy on Western Front. LUDENDORFF CRITIC TOO Kaiser, However, With Crown Prince and Chancellor, Backs Field Marshal.

Special Cable Dispatch to The Sun. Copyright, 1918; all rights reserved. LONDON, May 9.—A report regarding discussions in Germany which have reached Dutch circles asserts that a number of influential officers who were supporters of the late Field Marshal von Hindenburg are now conducting for some time an agitation against Field Marshal von Hindenburg on the ground that his successes on the western front have been due to the fact that his strategy has been faulty.

Prussian Deputies May Be Adjourned. Hertling Will Act if Suffrage Reform Bill Is Rejected.

AMSTERDAM, May 9.—Count von Hertling, the German Imperial Chancellor and Prussian Premier, has decided to dissolve the Prussian Chamber if the third reading of the franchise reform bill is rejected, the Cologne Gazette asserts. The Chancellor, according to the newspaper, received full powers from Emperor William to dissolve the Chamber of Deputies at an emergency session of the Count von Hertling offered to resign.

U. S. TO BUILD BIG WAR PLANT

Howitzers and Large Shells to Be Made in Great Quantities.

SITE WILL BE IN INTERIOR

U. S. Steel Corporation to Construct Factory—Experts Volunteer Free Services.

A huge ordnance plant for the manufacture of howitzers and large shells is to be constructed by the United States Government in the interior of the country under the supervision of the United States Steel Corporation. The new plant is expected to be one of the largest in the world and perhaps to equal the works of the Bethlehem Steel Corporation, which are now declared to be greater than Krupp's.

Rumors that the Government contemplated erecting a huge ordnance plant have been current for weeks, but confirmation of the reports was not obtained until E. H. Gary, chairman of the United States Steel Corporation, yesterday announced that general plans were being prepared for the construction of a plant which would manufacture cannon and projectiles.

No information could be obtained yesterday as to the probable cost of the plant. Construction is expected to stretch over a long period of time and completion of the plant is expected to occur in 1919 and possibly early in 1920.

Although securing the services of the best steel manufacturers in the country, the United States Government will not have to pay one cent of compensation to the men who will superintend the work, inasmuch as they have, through patriotism, volunteered their services. Judge Gary's statement giving details of the proposed ordnance plant said:

Details of Plans. "At the solicitation of the Secretary of War the United States Steel Corporation has undertaken to construct and equip for and at the expense of the Government, upon a site to be located in the interior of the country, a plant for the manufacture of cannon and projectiles of large sizes and in great quantities; and to operate the same when finished."

The work will be in the immediate charge of a committee consisting of a vice-president and the controller of the corporation, and eight officers designated from the officers (presidents or vice-presidents) of the various manufacturing corporations, and all selected because of their education, experience and peculiar fitness. This committee will be in touch with the building and operating organization which is being formed, and with the officers of the Steel Corporation and with the War Department.

Officers to Get No Pay. "Officers of the corporation and of the subsidiary companies will receive no compensation for their services."

"Accurate books of account will be kept which, with all records, files and other documents and papers, will be open and subject to examination by Government officials and other properly appointed representatives."

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Experts Expect Two Weeks' Delay Before Foo Resumes Offensive

PARIS, May 9.—Contrary to the belief expressed in cable despatches from France, military authorities here are of the opinion that the next German offensive is not as imminent as is expected. They agree that the battle may not begin before a fortnight. Many reasons contribute to this delay, foremost of which is the fact that so severe was the recent repulse of the Germans, especially on April 29 and 30, that considerable time must elapse before they will be able to fill in and re-organize their divisions.

On the other hand the aviators of the Allies have been working such havoc on the enemy's lines that he is finding it extremely difficult to carry out his concentrations. From a high military authority it is understood that the Allies would be willing to give up Ypres if the enemy were willing to pay about 20,000 men for it; at that, he added, it would be a good bargain, as Ypres is worth, tactically, fewer than 10,000 men.

It has been established recently that the German airplane production averages between 1,800 and 2,000 machines (probably a month). While it is not permitted to give the figures of the French and British output it is not exaggerating to estimate it at more than double and daily increasing.

HUGE TAX IS COMING, NEED 31 BILLIONS FOR YEAR, SAYS KITCHIN

New Department Estimates Astonish Senators, Who Predict Vastly Increased Income and Excess Profits Levies—Congress Likely to Remain in Session.

WASHINGTON, May 9.—Demands from the executive departments having the war in charge for appropriations for the coming fiscal year representing increases over current appropriations amounting to the billions have resulted in a sudden and complete change of plans regarding financial legislation.

To provide for this increase, amounting in the case of the War Department alone to almost \$8,000,000,000 over last year, a new tax law calling for comprehensive increases in existing rates and many items must be framed and passed at the present session. Definite information to this effect was conveyed to Administration leaders in the Senate to-day and took many by surprise. Treasury experts are engaged in the preparation of detailed statements and estimates upon which a new law can be based.

Some of the things which have been brought about by the new estimates are prospective appropriations as follows: Regular army appropriation bill, \$13,000,000,000; artillery and ammunition bill, \$1,000,000,000; naval appropriation bill, \$3,000,000,000; shipping programme, \$2,000,000,000; miscellaneous appropriations, \$1,000,000,000. Loans to the Allies at least \$5,000,000,000.

Capital Interests. The new demands of the Treasury Department, in view of recent assurances from high officials of the Government and leaders in Congress who have to do with the enactment of all financial legislation, have been a surprise to many. The new estimates are a complete reversal of the old ones. Only last week Chairman Simmons of the Senate Finance Committee in an interview in the New York Times expressed the opinion that in view of the encouraging returns partly compiled but pouring into the Treasury Department, on income and excess profits taxes, the new estimates were a complete reversal of the old ones.

Chairman Simmons' interview caused considerable talk and led to a conference with Treasury officials at which the new estimates were discussed. The new estimates were a complete reversal of the old ones. Only last week Chairman Simmons of the Senate Finance Committee in an interview in the New York Times expressed the opinion that in view of the encouraging returns partly compiled but pouring into the Treasury Department, on income and excess profits taxes, the new estimates were a complete reversal of the old ones.

War Department Speaks. In laying this plan Congress leaders as well as Treasury officials had reckoned without the War Department, whose stupendous estimates were kept secret by the War Department for several days. To-day Chairman Hurley and Charles M. Schwab followed Mr. Baker's estimates with demands of the shipping programme for \$2,000,000,000 more. Estimates have been filed from other departments calling for millions of new money, vastly greater even than the generous contribution of the preceding session.

According to Senator Smoot (Utah), admittedly the chief statistical expert of the Finance Committee's minority, the appropriations for 1918-19 will run to about \$27,000,000,000.

Only yesterday Senator Smoot told Continued on Third Page.

WAR CROSS FOR ATHLETE. Lieut. Cassidy Kills One, Captures Three Germans.

WITH THE AMERICAN ARMY IN FRANCE, May 9.—A large German patrol attempted to rush the American positions on the Plessey front during last night but was driven off.

The enemy patrol parties were active during the night, and one German, pretending to be wounded, lay outside the wire entanglements before an American position beseeching help. He was acting as a screen for the others, who were armed with hand grenades.

The Germans, failing to entice the Americans from their trenches, attacked, but the Americans made it so hot for them that they fled in confusion. Their casualties are believed to have been comparatively heavy.

The road of heavy artillery continues day and night in this sector.

ENEMY BUYING U. S. CURRENCY. Ukraine Grain Growers Will Accept No Other Payment.

LONDON, May 9.—The Central News Agency says that enemy agents are purchasing large quantities of United States notes for shipment to Austria by way of Switzerland, to be used for the purchase of this year's crop from the Ukraine.

ALLIED LINE IS RESTORED; BRITISH BATTLE ALL NIGHT; NEW ENEMY THRUST FAILS

ALLIED GUNNERS STOPPED ENEMY

Cooperation of French Infantry Also Upset Plans of Germans.

AIMED AT SCHERPENBERG

Great Barrage Prevented Employment of Troops on a Wider Front.

By the Associated Press. WITH THE BRITISH ARMY IN FRANCE, May 9.—The Germans had intended to make a much more pretentious assault in Flanders yesterday than they were actually able to carry out. It has been learned. Their failure was due to the excellent work of the allied gunners and a small number of special troops of the French east of Scherpenberg, which came at the right moment to help upset the enemy plans in this sector.

The German attack was actually executed, lay roughly between La Clytte and Voormezele, and it was made principally by the Fifty-second German Reserve Division, fresh troops which had not been used before the May offensive began—assisted by the Fifty-sixth regulars.

Wider Attack Contemplated. Fresh details which have come to hand and statements by prisoners would indicate that the enemy had intended to attack with five divisions on a much wider front, mainly between Loree and the Ypres-Comines canal, and it is quite possible that this drive was meant to be the forerunner of a grand smash to push up west of Ypres and thereby threaten the British hold on the ruined city.

The Germans preceded their advance by a terrific all night bombardment against both British and French over a wide front. At 9.30 o'clock the infantry drive was started by the Fifty-second Reserve, which was met again by the British in Ridge Wood and the neighboring territory southwest of Voormezele, and by the Fifty-sixth Division, which attacked the British on the right and the French on the left.

Before the battle started in earnest, however, several things had happened which were to have a vital bearing on the result. The rain, which had been so thick that already it is drying rapidly and the roads behind the front again are dusty.

Other Units Kept Back. Nothing further happened along this sector, but, it appeared later, that the enemy had been assembling here to participate in the attack, and had been badly smashed that the idea of their taking part had been abandoned.

In the meantime along the French front, between La Clytte and the Ypres-Comines canal, an unusual movement among the enemy had brought down a tremendous barrage from the British guns against the German positions in Ridge Wood and the neighboring territory southwest of Voormezele, and by the Fifty-sixth Division, which attacked the British on the right and the French on the left.

QUEEN MARIE REJECTS TREATY. Refuses to Recognize German Rule of Rumania.

AMSTERDAM, May 9.—Queen Marie of Rumania, according to German newspaper reports, has refused to recognize the peace treaty between Rumania and Germany. Her Majesty says she had rather abdicate than reign over a country under German rule.

The Queen's children are of the same opinion and they never lose an opportunity, the newspapers add, of insulting the Germans in Rumania.

LIQUOR TRAFFIC PLAN DEAD. London Editor Says Britain Is Not to Buy Out Rum Men.

Special Cable Dispatch to The Sun. Copyright, 1918; all rights reserved. LONDON, May 9.—Sir William Nicoll, editor of the British Weekly, says that the plan to buy out rum men in the Congo is dead, and that he makes this statement on the very best authority.

Nicoll has the reputation of being in the confidence of the Liberal leaders.

PRESIDENT EXPERT ONE HANDED GOLFER Burns Cause Him to Acquire New Playing Method.

WASHINGTON, May 9.—President Wilson's burning desire to play golf has been the cause of his acquiring a new playing method.

Since the President burned his hand while inspecting the tank, British and the White House ellipse several weeks ago it was believed that he would have to give up golf playing until his hand was well, but he has now recovered and will stop him and he continued to make his trips to the links, playing with one hand.

There's almost no end to the good things in store for the good friends. A few of them are listed on page 4. You can't afford to miss any, so go to Pell Tree Inn to-night!

BRITISH HOLD RECENT GAINS

German Advance Fails to Reach Points Taken Before April 26.

DRIVE IS THWARTED

Heavy Bombardment Halts Enemy Attacks South of the Somme.

By PERRY ROBINSON. Special Cable Dispatch to The Sun. Copyright, 1918; all rights reserved. BRITISH ARMY HEADQUARTERS IN FRANCE, May 9 (delayed).—The great tension exists along the whole battle-front the only point where any fighting has taken place has been north of the Mont St. Eloi area near Vierstraet and Ridge Wood. The Germans attacked there on a short stretch this morning and in places pushed back our advance outposts.

We are holding well in advance of the line to which we had fallen back on April 24. It was only after the German attack on April 25 that we were pushed forward our outposts to the positions attacked to-day. Unless operations develop much beyond their present proportions this is not important.

Elsewhere there were some indications that the Germans were preparing large attacks south of the Somme this morning, but the rain, which was so thick that already it is drying rapidly and the roads behind the front again are dusty.

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Von Arnim's Troops Suffer Heavy Loss in Effort to Win Scherpenberg.

GOT FOOTING IN WOOD

They Are Thrown Out and Haig's Men Win Back Old Positions.

FRENCH ALSO MOVE UP

German Effort Was to Break Right Flank of British in the Kemmel Region.

LONDON, May 9.—The footing in the British trenches and the slight gain of ground which Gen. von Arnim made yesterday between La Clytte and Voormezele, back of Mont Kemmel, at a heavy cost of German lives, was all taken away from him by the French and British in a sharp counter attack last night. Early this morning the Germans attacked again north of Kemmel and pressed back the British slightly at one point, but this also they lost later. Field Marshal Haig reports to-night that at the close of the fighting this morning all the French and British positions in this region had been completely reestablished.

Two strong local attacks were made by the Germans in sectors further to the south, one near Albert, the other near Bouzincourt. The latter was broken up by the British fire. Near Albert, however, the Germans won a footing in the advanced British trenches on a front of 150 yards and retained it.

In local fighting yesterday near Bucquoy, south of Arras, thirty German prisoners were taken, and in minor operations between the Somme and the Ancre the British made further progress, improving somewhat their positions. German raids were repulsed near Lens and at Merris, southwest of Baillieu. The French pushed back artillery activity on the Haillies-Montdidier front, part of which is held by American troops. There was also heavy shelling again on both sides of the Avere River, southeast of Amiens.

Hard Fighting Around Kemmel. Describing the fighting back of Mont Kemmel the correspondent of the Associated Press with the British army in France says that at one time this morning the British were forced back slightly by machine gun fire, but all the rest of the original defenses were again in the hands of the Allies.

After their first success in yesterday's fighting, he adds, the Germans were unable to gain further ground, despite repeated assaults at the allied line. After the struggle to place about the Klein Vierstraet carabot, west of Vierstraet, and in the Ridge Wood, but the British clung desperately to their positions.

The British organized a counter attack during the night, which was so vigorous that the Germans were unable to withstand it and gradually in making until they had abandoned all the ground gained.

Flanks Held by Artillery Fire. The enemy's move undoubtedly was an attempt to improve his positions by way of preparation for a bigger attack to come. The struggle to place about the Klein Vierstraet carabot, west of Vierstraet, and in the Ridge Wood, but the British clung desperately to their positions.

Hard fighting continued throughout the day, especially in the center. A "horror" counter attack last night resulted in the reestablishment of the allied line in the Voormezele-La Clytte sector, where the Germans in a local attack yesterday succeeded in making some advance. This operation, though comparatively small, developed hard fighting throughout most of the day and into the night.

Aimed at British Right. Another correspondent says that throughout yesterday the enemy pushed his attack in the direction of the north-eastern slope of Scherpenberg with great determination, his main attack being directed against the right flank of the British northern army and overlapping the British junction with the French.

Enemy parties penetrated to the Klein Vierstraet carabot and the situation was a most dangerous one. The British, however, were able to hold their ground and the enemy's advance was checked.

About 1.30, when the battle was still raging with unabated fury, the British still held the hamlet of Klein Vierstraet, but had been pushed back from the wood. The French were then the only ones holding the line along the Wavre-Wood.

The Germans, continuing to throw in fresh troops, pressed the British back toward the west ridge of Ridge Wood, and momentarily occupied the greater portion of it. Parties of British were still holding out in Klein Vierstraet, and later the French, in order to ensure complete possession of this place.

Before sunset the Germans had fought themselves to a standstill, having suffered very heavy losses and gained ground of some tactical importance in Ridge Wood, being a distant step toward Scherpenberg, the coveted point.

Just before dark the British counter-attacked under cover of a terrific bombardment and the enemy was forced to yield the ground he had occupied at such cost. By night the original line had been restored virtually everywhere.